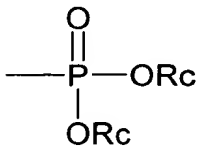
Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, carbonyl substituted by a straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, or C $_{6-10}$ aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or



Rc is, in each case ~~are~~ independently, H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C $_{6-10}$ aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

Q is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Z is ORb;~~,~~

Rb is H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C $_{1-6}$ acyl, or a ~~an~~ hydroxy protecting group;

D_1 and D_2 are each independently N_3, F, or H, wherein D_1 and D_2 are not both H; or

D_1 and D_2 together form C_3-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, - $=CH_2$, or - $=CF_2$;

with the proviso that when B is adenine, Z is ORb, D_1 is H, D_2 is H and Rb is H, Ra is not triphosphate or H.

2. A method according to claim 19, wherein Z is OH.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, or triphosphate.

7. A method according to claim 3, wherein Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, or triphosphate.

C1 cont'd

10. A method according to claim 2, wherein B is

adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, 3-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 3-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 3-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl 3-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 5-aza-thymin-1-yl, 5-aza-cytosin-1-yl, 5-aza-uracil-1-yl, 6-aza-thymin-1-yl, 6-aza-cytosin-1-yl, or 6-aza-uracil-1-yl;

which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

11. A method according to claim 3, wherein B is

adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, 3-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 3-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 3-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl 3-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 5-aza-thymin-1-yl, 5-aza-cytosin-1-yl, 5-aza-uracil-1-yl, 6-aza-thymin-1-yl, 6-aza-cytosin-1-yl, or 6-aza-uracil-1-yl;

which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

12. A method according to claim 2, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 5-fluorouracil or 1,2,4-triazole-3-carboxamide base.

13. A method according to claim 3, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 5-fluorouracil or 1,2,4-triazole-3-carboxamide base.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is:

3'-fluoro-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro 3'-deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro 3'-deoxycytidine-5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'- difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-azido-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or

3'-azido-3'- deoxycytidine 5'triphosphate; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A method according to claim 19, ~~1~~ further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus

interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

16. A method according to claim 2, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

17. A method according to claim 3, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

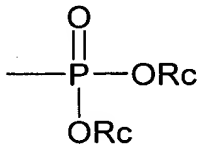
18. A method according to claim 14, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.--

Please add the following new claims:

--19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is a method of treatment.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein

Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, carbonyl substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6}, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or C_{6-10} aryl or



;

Rc is, in each case independently, H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6}, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{6-10} aryl or a hydroxy protecting group selected from acetyl-2-thioethyl ester, pivaloyloxymethyl ester and

isopropyloxycarbonyloxymethyl ester; and

Rb is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} acyl, or a hydroxy protecting group selected from acetyl-2-thioethyl ester, pivaloyloxymethyl ester and isopropyloxycarbonyloxymethyl ester.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, or 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

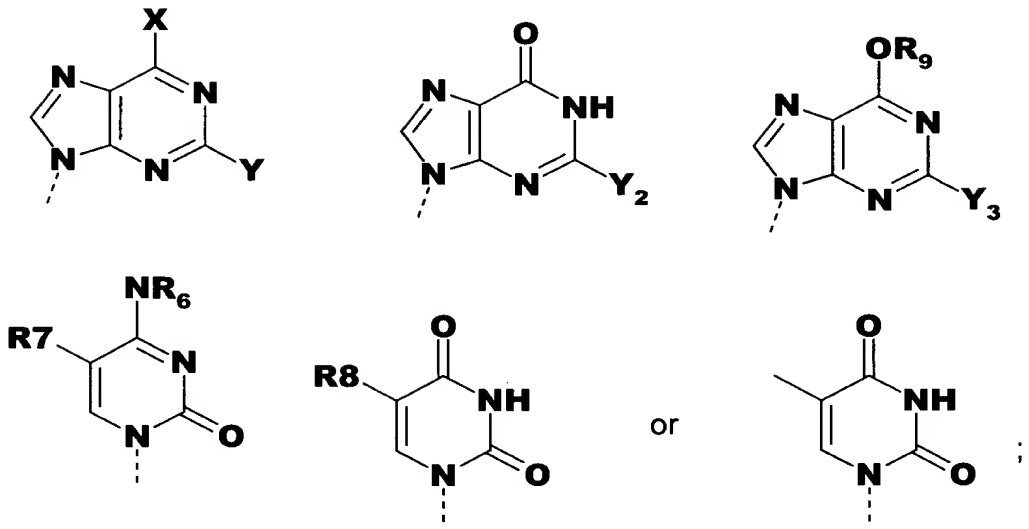
22. A method according to claim 19, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

C2 cont'd

23. A method according to claim 19, wherein B is guanin-9-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

24. A method according to claim 19, wherein B is guanin-9-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5'-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, 5'-fluorouracil -1-yl or uracil-1-yl.

25. A method according to claim 19, wherein B is



wherein

X is H, halogen or NHR_{10};

R_{10} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y is H, halogen or NHR_{11};

R_{11} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y_2 is H, halogen or NHR_{12};

R_{12} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_9 is H, hydroxy protecting group, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y_3 is H, halogen or NHR_{13};

R_{13} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_7 is H, halogen, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl; and

R_8 is H, halogen, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein X is H, F, or NHR_{10}, R_{10} is H, Y is H, F, or NHR_{11}, R_{11} is H, Y_2 is H, F, or NHR_{12}, R_{12} is H, R_9 is H, Y_3 is H, F, or NHR_{13}, R_{13} is H, R_7 is H, F, or C_{1-6} alkyl, and R_8 is H, F, or C_{1-6} alkyl.

27. A method according to claim 19, wherein Z is F or ORb, and ORb is H or methyl.

28. A method according to claim 19, wherein D_1 and D_2 are N_3, F, or H in which D_1 and D_2 are not both H, or D_1 and D_2 together form cyclopropyl, difluorocyclopropyl -=CH_2, or –=CF_2.

29. A method according to claim 19, wherein said compound is administered in an amount of 0.01 to about 750 mg/kg of body weight per day.

30. A method according to claim 19, wherein said compound is administered in unit dosages containing 10 to 1500 mg of said compound per unit dosage.

31. A method according to claim 15, wherein said compound and said further therapeutic agent are each administered as a formulation which further contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. A method according to claim 31, said compound and said further therapeutic agent are sequentially.

C2 C11 cont'd

33. A method according to claim 31, said compound and said further therapeutic agent are simultaneously in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations.

34. A method according to claim 1, wherein said host is a human.

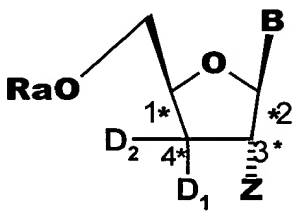
35. A method according to claim 19, wherein said host is a human.

36. A method according to claim 2, wherein said host is a human.

37. A method according to claim 3, wherein said host is a human.

38. A method according to claim 14, wherein said host is a human.

39. A method for the treatment or prevention of an hepatitis C infection in a host comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

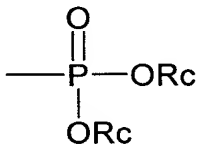


(Ib)

wherein

B is a purine, a pyrimidine or an analogue thereof;

Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, carbonyl substituted by a straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, or C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, ~~and~~ or



;

Rc is, in each case independently, H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-

C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or a hydroxy protecting group; ~~and~~

Q is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Z is ORb;

Rb is H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{1-6} acyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

D_1 and D_2 are each independently N_3, F, or H , or D_1 and D_2 together form C_3-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, - $=CH_2$, or - $=CF_2$;

with the provisos that:

when B is adenine, Z is ORb, D_1 is H, D_2 is H and Rb is H, Ra is not triphosphate or H,

and

said method does not include administration of an interferon.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein said host is a human.--